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Letter dated 19 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a press release dated 19 January 2001 issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Mr. André Bumaya, following the sudden death of President Laurent Désiré Kabila (see annex), condemning any act of assassination as a means of resolving differences, and at the same time reaffirming Rwanda's commitment to the Lusaka Peace Agreement, thus reassuring the Government and the People of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the partners in the Lusaka Peace Process that Rwanda does not intend to take any advantage of the current leadership crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Isidore **Munyakazi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has learned of the death of President Laurent Désiré Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government of Rwanda condemns any act of assassination as a means of resolving differences.

The Government of Rwanda categorically refutes the outrageous allegation by the Democratic Republic of the Congo Minister of Defence to the effect that Rwanda was in any way involved in the alleged assassination.

Rwanda is still involved in a war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fight the forces which committed genocide in Rwanda and are operating from the Congolese territory with the support of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rwanda still believes that the Lusaka Peace Process is the best framework to resolve the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and will continue to work for the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and the entire Great Lakes region need peace for development. The Democratic Republic of the Congo will evolve to address both the internal and external causes of the conflict in the existing Lusaka framework.

In the meantime, the Government of Rwanda wishes to reiterate its commitment to the principle of good neighbourliness, and will work very closely with whoever is genuinely working towards this end. The Government of Rwanda would like to reassure the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and our partners in the Lusaka Peace Process that we do not intend to take any advantage of the current leadership crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.